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IAP20 Response 10 23 MAR 2006

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE AS
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE

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| Applicants: | Ashton, et al. | |
| Int. Appln. No: | PCT/US2004/036252 | |
| Int. Filing Date: | 29 October 2004 | |
| US Appln. No.: | To Be Assigned | Case No.: 21562P |
| Filed: | Concurrently Herewith | |
| For: | FUSED PHENYLALANINE DERIVATIVES AS DIPEPTIDYL PEPTIDASE-IV INHIBITORS FOR THE TREATMENT OR PREVENTION OF DIABETES | |

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

The above-identified case is a PCT application entering the US National Phase under 35 U.S.C. § 371 and Article 39(1)(a) of the Patent Cooperation Treaty. Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments prior to prosecution of the subject application. Any additional fees associated with this Amendment may be charged to Merck Deposit Account No. 13-2755.

Please amend this application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification are reflected on page 2 of this response.
Amendments to the Claims are reflected on page 3 of this response. **Remarks** begin on page 14 of this response.

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE
DATE OF DEPOSIT MARCH 23, 2006
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